

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 7**  
11201 Renner Blvd., Lenexa, Kansas 66219

Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and Nine Tribal Nations

## **EPA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Conclude Decision on West Lake Landfill Isolation Barrier Alignment**

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### **Environmental News**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

(Lenexa, Kan., July 21, 2014) – EPA Region 7, following consultations with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), announced new details of its decision to direct Republic Services, Inc. to construct an isolation barrier at the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site in Bridgeton, Mo. The barrier was originally ordered by the Missouri Attorney General to separate the West Lake Landfill from a subsurface smoldering event located approximately 1,000 feet away at the South Quarry Cell of the Bridgeton Landfill.

The EPA's orders today direct Republic to build the isolation barrier between the North Quarry Cell of Bridgeton Landfill and the Operable Unit 1 of the West Lake Landfill. The decision comes after months of EPA and USACE analysis on the engineering requirements for three potential barrier locations.

The location chosen by the agencies, "Alignment One", will be faster to implement and is expected to have fewer impacts on the public and the airport, which has expressed concerns about the dangers of bird impacts on aircraft. Birds would be attracted to the excavation of newer landfill materials located in the Bridgeton Landfill. EPA and USACE will monitor the construction to reduce these impacts as well as ensure the contractor follows precise and cautious protocols to safeguard the containment of any RIM that may be excavated during the construction. Any isolated RIM that remains on the North Quarry Cell side of the barrier will be monitored and ultimately managed as part of the final remedy for the Superfund Site. The final remedy could include removal of RIM and/or containment.

The other two alignment options reviewed by the EPA and USACE experts were deemed unfeasible due to significant complexities and tangible impacts.

- Require longer implementation schedules
- Depth of the quarry in those locations ranged from 80 feet to 200 feet
  - Alignment three requires removal of twice the volume of waste as alignment one
- No "new" waste north of barrier alignment - lower risk of separate SSE north of isolation barrier
- Higher impacts on the Airport
  - More waste relocation with newer waste that creates greater bird hazards
- Could damage existing Bridgeton Land Fill north quarry infrastructure
  - Gas wells
  - Leachate extraction
- Greater odor potential (longer duration and more significant smell) due to the volume of material and its age

According to EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks, "Both the EPA and Corps experts agree the engineering and scientific data are clear that alignment one offers the best overall solution that is protective of public health, including the flying public."

The EPA and USACE are working together under an interagency agreement signed on April 15, 2014. The USACE provides technical assistance services, design review services, pre-construction and construction observation, and community relations support.

A copy of EPA's order directing Republic Services to begin construction activities for the isolation barrier is available online at:

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A copy of the interagency agreement between EPA and USACE is available online at:  
[http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/pdf/west-lake-fy14-ia-sow.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/pdf/west-lake-fy14-ia-sow.pdf)

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Learn more about EPA's work at West Lake Landfill:  
[http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west\\_lake\\_landfill/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/region7/cleanup/west_lake_landfill/index.htm)

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